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XIX. *An Account of an Oil-Stone found at Salisbury. In a Letter from the Reverend SAMUEL WEBSTER, to Mr. CALEB GANNETT, Rec. Sec. A. A.*

Salisbury, January 24, 1783.

S I R,

I HAVE found what the goldsmiths use, and call an oil-stone, equal, if not superior, to those imported from *Turkey*.—But as it was so small as only to make two, one for each of my sons, who are goldsmiths, it is not in my power to send you a sample. It is extremely hard, and somewhat brittle; so that I easily broke it into two pieces. When it is ground it is exceedingly smooth, and serves to smooth their engraving tools. I found it in my field by accident, and was excited, from its uncommon appearance, to take it up, not knowing, at that time, what it was. It is somewhat curdled with light and dark brown, or, when ground, it approaches to a light chocolate colour, somewhat clouded. Before it was ground some compared it to *Castile* soap. I have made considerable search for more, but without success. I doubt not, however, that we have them in the country, perhaps in plenty. I found this in moist ground. These stones are necessary for all those who make use of engraving tools, and are now very scarce and dear.

I send you a piece of marble found near the mouth of *St. John's-River*, in *Nova-Scotia*. It is found of various colours,—white, bluish and veined. I also send you a sample of salt, made from a salt-spring in the *Seneca* country, on *Mohawk-River*: and a sample of cloth, coloured black with fumach-berries alone, without copperas.

I am, &c.

SAMUEL WEBSTER.

Mr. Caleb Gannett.

